



dogofstray@rocketmail.com

02/13/02 09:28 AM

To: <jgreis@fs.fed.us>, <dwear@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Acknowledge Unsustainable Timber Industry in SFRA

Dear Mr. Sargent,

Mr. Greis and Mr. Wear,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the draft of the Southern Forest Resource Assessment. I am very concerned that the threat posed by the cumulative expansion of industrial forestry may not be clear in the final report. The Assessment points out that while 30 million acres of forest will be lost to sprawl through the next four decades, that at least 250 million acres of forests will be heavily logged by big timber companies.

Removal of the South's hardwood forests will exceed growth by 2025. Also, approximately one in every four acres of the South's "forest" will be a single-species industrial pine plantation by 2040. This is neither healthy nor sustainable, and is simply unacceptable.

The primary conclusion drawn in the Southern Forest Resource Assessment is that sprawl poses the single biggest threat to Southern forests -- a supposition that is extremely misleading. I do not doubt that the loss of forests to sprawl does pose a serious threat to Southern forests. But my point here is that the impacts of big timber companies are exacerbated, not reduced, by increased urbanization.

I hope this oversight will be dealt with, legitimately, in the final version of the report. Our remaining natural forests have become even more important to sustaining wildlife populations, water quality, scenic beauty, recreation, tourism and value-added, quality wood products businesses. I sincerely hope that the final report will reflect my concern, which I find to be quite reasonable.

Thank you for your time, and for any further consideration you can give to this matter.

Sincerely,

James Dallas Howell, IV

30 Crown St.
Asheville, NC 28806